



Transforming Food Systems through Regenerative Landscapes

Speaker Bios

Sara Scherr



Author

Dr. Sara J. Scherr, a founder of integrated landscape management, is a leading voice globally in regenerative land management for food security, climate action and sustainable development. She founded EcoAgriculture Partners in 2002 to promote locally led agriculture landscape partnerships and served as President and CEO through 2024. An agricultural and resource economist and an innovator in agricultural landscape analysis, planning, policy and finance, she has supported landscape partnerships in Africa, Latin America, Asia and the U.S. and advised landscape programs worldwide.

Louise Buck



Author

Dr. Louise Buck provides strategic guidance for integrated landscape initiatives with the aim of improving and expanding the practice of integrated landscape management (ILM) worldwide. Her analytic work focusses on ways that ILM can address issues and spark innovations in food and nutrition systems, climate smart agriculture, agroecological practice standards and certifications, resilience-restoration-regeneration initiatives, land governance and property rights, and others.

Bemmy Granados



Author

Dr. Bemmy Granados is the Director of Innovation in Landscape Management at EcoAgriculture Partners, where she leads efforts to advance integrated landscape management to promote sustainable land-use practices. She facilitates a program of action research- conceiving and implementing transformative programs that promote multifunctional landscapes characterized by sustainable agriculture, biodiversity conservation, and climate resilience.

Tom Miewald



Speaker

Tom Miewald is the Director of Programs at EcoAgriculture Partners, where he leads the 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People (1000L) initiative. His role is to coordinate the crosscutting workstreams of the 1000L program teams and hub to ensure that activities are aligned, integrated, and progressing toward the goals of 1000L. Tom coordinates and builds alignment among the core and technical Partners of 1000L to leverage their strengths and unite all the organizations to achieve 1000L's goals. Tom has a Master's degree in Geography with a focus on Landscape Ecology.

Valentina Toledo



Speaker

Valentina Toledo is a Mediator and Program Manager for Regen10, where she leads the program and oversees activities across its three workstreams. With a focus on deep, systemic change, she designs and facilitates co-creative, participatory processes and collaborations that are rooted in justice and regeneration. Valentina thrives on challenging the status quo and fostering transformative outcomes that address the injustices embedded in our food systems.

Phemo Kgomotso



Moderator

Phemo Kgomotso is a Senior Technical Advisor at UNDP with a demonstrated history of working in the environment and sustainable development field. Phemo has been part of a team of technical advisors at UNDP who support governments to develop and implement initiatives to address global environmental problems and to meet their commitments and obligations under the Rio Conventions. Her work has focused specifically on themes related to integrated landscape management and SLM and restoration, sustainable agriculture and food. Phemo also serves on the steering committee of 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People.

Tara Shyam



Speaker

Tara Shyam is the Director of Regen10, the Secretariat hosted by the Meridian Institute. Tara specializes in complex multistakeholder food systems partnerships, with diverse expertise spanning agriculture, nutrition, school meals, and food loss and waste. She has worked for the UN World Food Programme, two CGIAR Institutes, the Global Nutrition Report, The Global FoodBanking Network, and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), among others.

Andrea Porro



Panelist

Dr. Andrea Porro is the Secretary General of the World Farmers' Organisation (WFO), where he brings 18 years of expertise as a project leader and subject matter expert in agriculture and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) across over 15 countries. A graduate in Agricultural Sciences from the University of Milan, he began his career in agricultural extension in 2006, focusing on agrometeorology and technology transfer. Dr. Porro holds a Master's in Crop Production and Protection and a Doctorate in Plant Biology and Production. Since 2014, he has worked with international organizations, managing large-scale projects and teams in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, and Nigeria.

Caroline van Leenders



Panelist

Caroline van Leenders has 20 years of experience in sustainable development. She works for the RVO, part of the Ministry of Economic Affairs. She advises and supports different programs on sustainable topics such as energy, food, biodiversity, infrastructure, and environment for the Ministry of Economic Affairs. She specializes in transition management and in facilitating the cooperation between industry, NGOs & knowledge institutes. She has a degree in Molecular Biology and in Science Philosophy and a PhD in Environmental Studies.

Kirsten Dunlop



Moderator

As CEO of Climate KIC, Kirsten Dunlop leads the organization with a deep conviction in our capacity to learn and evolve into a climate-resilient society. She brings over 30 years of experience catalyzing systemic transformations in a career spanning academia, consulting, banking, and insurance. Kirsten serves on various Advisory Boards and is a recognized leader at the European Commission Economic and Societal Impact of Research and Innovation (ESIR) expert group. She is also a member of the 1000 Landscapes for 1 Billion People steering committee.

Sara Farley



Panelist

As Vice President Sara leads the global portfolio and spearheads integrated operations for The Rockefeller Foundation's food team, leading such signature initiatives as the Food Systems Vision Prize and the Rockefeller Foundation-Acumen Food Systems Fellowship. In this capacity she is driving the Foundation's inaugural regenerative food systems strategy, leading the diet quality portfolio, and expanding the good food purchasing portfolio and true cost accounting work globally with the aim of shifting the diet quality of 500 million underserved people by 2030.

Stefania Avanzini



Panelist

Stefania leads One Planet Business for Biodiversity (OP2B), a cross-sector and action driven initiative of WBCSD, which aims to scale regenerative agricultural practices and shift land use to protect biodiversity. Initiated within French President's Macron One Planet Lab, OP2B was launched at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York on 23 September 2019.

John Garcia Ulloa



Panelist

Dr. John Garcia-Ulloa is an environmental scientist specializing in landscape ecology, land-use change, conservation science, biodiversity, and land-use planning. John has worked on diverse topics, including agroecological policies and the design of oil palm landscapes, aiming to improve the sustainability of food systems. He has held positions as a Senior Scientist at ETH Zurich, conducting governance and ecological analyses of oil palm landscapes in the tropics, and as Programme Manager for Policy and Advocacy at Biovision Foundation, promoting agroecology and biodiversity conservation.

Gustavo Rojas



Panelist

Gustavo Rojas has extensive experience in sustainable development and natural resource management. He currently works with Rainforest Alliance in Mexico as the Sustainable Landscapes Manager, developing innovative finance strategies and fostering private sector partnerships. Gustavo's commitment to environmental sustainability and landscape management is backed by over 12 years of experience in project management, policy analysis, and strategic planning.